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Compendium of Promising Crime Prevention Practices in Canada

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Compendium of Promising Crime Prevention Practices in Canada

by

Wanda Jamieson and Liz Hart

*The Government of Canada's National Crime Prevention Strategy
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Wanda Jamieson and Liz Hart

The Caledon Institute of Social Policy occasionally publishes reports and commentaries written by outside experts. The views expressed in this paper are those of the authors.

Introduction

Over the past decade, crime prevention thinking, policies and practices in Canada have evolved to encompass a wide range of policies, strategies and actions that are designed to improve community and personal security for Canadians.

The exchange of ideas, perspectives and ways to prevent crime and victimization is vital to the development of innovative and effective crime prevention approaches. Equally vital is the importance of taking the time to reflect on what has been learned about effective ways of preventing crime and victimization and how practices can be improved. The exchange of information, periods of reflection and refinement are never-ending tasks because communities are places of constant change, the factors that contribute to crime and victimization so complex, the players who have a role to play in crime prevention so varied, the practical challenges of implementation at the community level so wide-ranging, and finding the right tools and capacity to document the results of crime prevention activity so challenging.

This Compendium is designed to provide an overview of key strategies, practices, resources and tools that are supported via federal, provincial and territorial crime prevention initiatives across Canada. It includes primarily crime prevention through social development (CPSD), with a focus on efforts that build community relationships and partnerships. Readers should bear in mind that this document was designed as a cross-country compendium to showcase a range of activities and not as an inventory of all activities within each jurisdiction. While by no means an exhaustive document, this Compendium can be a starting point for acquiring a good sense of the direction, depth, scope and promise of crime prevention to reduce crime and victimization in Canada.

Who is the audience?

This Compendium may be of interest to a wide audience, including:

- crime prevention practitioners
- practitioners working in fields such as health, social services, housing
- policy-makers at all levels of government
- researchers working on community safety and crime prevention issues at local and jurisdiction-wide levels
- citizen groups and individuals concerned about crime and victimization in their respective communities.

How can this Compendium be used?

Readers may find different uses for this Compendium, depending on the kind of work they are doing in the field of crime prevention, where they are doing it and what needs to be done. At a general level, it is hoped that this document will help to:

- educate and build awareness of how crime prevention is practised in Canada
- provide promising ideas to further crime prevention efforts
- provide assistance on where to obtain further information
- motivate people to adopt promising ideas in practice.

How is this Compendium organized?

This Compendium includes:

- an overview of the National Crime Prevention Strategy and other related federal initiatives that contribute to the prevention of crime and victimization
- an overview of each province and territory's approach to crime prevention
- descriptions of projects and activities that exemplify the crime prevention approach followed in each jurisdiction
- a listing of selected Canadian websites that can provide further information on crime prevention in Canada.

Where possible, we have included references to evaluation literature or other forms of evidence on the effectiveness of the information provided in this Compendium.

What kinds of crime prevention practices are included?

In Canada, as in many places throughout the world, information about which interventions work, the conditions that contribute to success or failure, and the transferability of interventions from one situation to another is only in the early stages of development. It must be remembered that many crime prevention activities require long-term investments before results in terms of reducing crime and victimization are visible. In reality, the 'gold standard' of empirically proven solutions is still far afield. There are, however, other criteria – beyond strict, scientifically based evidentiary criteria – that can be used to guide policy-makers and practitioners in the types of practices that hold the most 'promise' to prevent crime and victimization. A growing body of research that points to risk factors at both the individual level and within the social environment – is a possible starting point. Strategies which bring

community players together to develop actions that will address the factors which contribute to crime and victimization are another.¹

Over the past two decades, the CPSD approach has emerged as an important and innovative element of successful crime prevention, which also may include opportunity reduction as well as justice measures to reduce crime and victimization. The social development approach attempts to address the *root causes* of crime in society. It recognizes that crime stems from a variety of critical experiences in people's lives: family violence; poor parenting; negative school experiences; poor housing; a lack of recreational, health and environmental facilities; inadequate social support; peer pressure; unemployment; and lack of opportunity and poverty. It emphasizes investing in individuals, families and communities by providing social, recreational, educational and economic interventions and support programs for those Canadians, mainly young people, who are most at risk of becoming involved in crime, before they come into conflict with the law. Social development also includes investing in rehabilitative interventions for people who are already involved with the criminal justice system.

While CPSD is increasingly part of a comprehensive approach to safer communities in Canada, it does not function in isolation from the criminal justice system – a system that is also changing to include the victim perspective and other models such as restorative justice. In fact, responses that mesh the strengths and innovations of the criminal justice system (the police, courts and corrections) with proactive approaches such as crime prevention through social development (CPSD) are being embraced by many Canadian communities.

How projects were selected

The projects profiled in this Compendium were selected from a large pool of projects identified by members of the Federal/Provincial/Territorial Working Group on Community Safety and Crime Prevention as representative of the kinds of crime prevention strategies, practices, resources and tools supported through various initiatives in their jurisdictions. The selection illustrates what a wide variety of projects equipped with different types and levels of resources can accomplish. Some projects have been in existence for a number of years while others are relatively new. Due to space considerations, it was not possible to profile fully the diverse range of activities occurring within each jurisdiction. In selecting examples, the following criteria were considered:

Evidence: Ideally, one wants to find published, peer-reviewed scientific evidence that demonstrates a strategy, practice, resource or tool has been effective in preventing crime. In practical terms, such scientific evidence is thin, particularly for Canadian crime prevention programs, although the situation is improving. For example, projects funded through the National Crime Prevention Strategy include an evaluation component. In the selection process

¹ See, for example, L.W. Sherman et al. (1998). *Preventing Crime: What Works, What Doesn't, What's Promising*. Washington: National Institute of Justice. For an international perspective, see: International Centre for the Prevention of Crime. (1999). *Crime Prevention Digest II: Comparative Analysis of Successful Community Safety*. Montreal: International Centre for the Prevention of Crime.

we also considered expert² opinion – derived through consultation with federal, provincial and territorial crime prevention officials and from the findings of expert panels, published reviews and commentaries.

Plausibility: There is a growing body of theoretical and applied research that shows the linkages between risk factors and crime. The research shows how various forms of intervention may prevent crime and victimization. There are also studies from other countries which include a mix of scientific evidence as well as expert opinion that identify interventions that hold promise for crime prevention. We considered this information in the selection process.

Additional considerations for selection included:

- practicality for implementation
- sufficiency of information about the implementation ‘process’ so that others might implement with fidelity elsewhere
- acceptability to varying Canadian community contexts, situations and diversity of needs
- community size, community infrastructure and geographic location
- existence of partnerships to enhance the resources available for action and the potential effectiveness of crime prevention efforts.

² Experts included crime prevention policy analysts and crime prevention officials, crime prevention researchers and evaluators, crime prevention practitioners and other allied practitioners.

Highlights

Policies and strategies to prevent crime and victimization

This Compendium highlights the primary federal, provincial and territorial policies and strategies that address risk factors associated with crime and victimization. Throughout the country, community safety and crime prevention strategies frequently are carried out with support from – or in partnership with – community residents, the police, health and social services professionals, nongovernmental organizations, professional associations and the private sector. All are action-oriented, emphasizing community engagement, mobilization and participation in crime prevention.

Across all jurisdictions in Canada, community safety and crime prevention policies and strategies acknowledge the interconnections among crime, victimization and risk factors such as child and family poverty, inconsistent and uncaring parenting, experiences of family violence, substance abuse, poor schooling, unemployment and social exclusion. The policies and strategies include a range of measures designed to foster the social development of individuals and communities in ways that show promise to reduce crime and victimization. Multifaceted, intersectoral approaches are encouraged, and are seen to empower individuals, families and communities. Many are innovative in design and increasingly reflect the experiences, circumstances and needs of Canada's varied and unique population and communities. Many policies and strategies work in tandem with opportunity reduction measures to reduce crime, and with other social, health and justice initiatives which aim to improve individual, family and community well-being.

Projects and activities

While this Compendium includes exemplary CPSD projects and activities occurring across Canada, it is not an exhaustive list. There is a strong emphasis on projects and activities that address risk and protective factors pertaining to children, youth and their families. These projects and activities are premised on a growing body of literature that recognizes the importance of the early years, and how measures such as home visits, parent training and support contribute to children's healthy development and reduce the likelihood of delinquent behaviour. Other projects and activities focus on knowledge and skills-oriented investments in youth such as crime prevention champions and peer educators and as catalysts for community development and change.

Some projects and activities focus on specific crime concerns and issues, such as family violence, women and girls' personal safety, substance abuse and sexual exploitation. Other projects, particularly in Aboriginal communities, utilize traditional values, teachings and cultural practices to strengthen individual, family and community capacity to address crime and victimization. The Compendium also includes exemplary community-wide initiatives that address a range of crime concerns through the use of integrated, community development and

community mobilization strategies that focus on crime issues and use problem-solving strategies to address those concerns.

Jurisdictional Profiles

Government Of Canada

The National Crime Prevention Strategy is a federal initiative that is the shared responsibility of the Department of Justice Canada and the Ministry of the Solicitor General of Canada. Phase I of this Strategy was launched in 1994, with the support of police, other criminal justice agencies and communities across Canada. The Strategy is based on research which shows that reactive measures – the apprehension, sentencing, incarceration and rehabilitation of offenders – are not enough to prevent crime. This Strategy was, in part, a response to a recommendation in a report to the House of Commons Committee on Justice and the Solicitor General [Horner Report 1993].

Phase I of the Strategy – and particularly the work of the volunteer-driven National Crime Prevention Council (1994-1997) – resulted in significant new knowledge development on crime prevention, including the development of prevention models for children, youth and families. The learning process in Phase I laid the groundwork for Phase II of the Strategy, which was announced in 1998.

Phase II of the Strategy represents a continuing commitment on the part of the federal government to support effective approaches to preventing crime in this country. The Strategy is aimed at reducing crime and victimization by addressing their root causes through a social development approach.³ The Strategy focuses on societal factors and conditions that contribute to crime, while recognizing a need to reduce immediate opportunities or situations in which crime can occur.

The current overall goal of the National Crime Prevention Strategy is to increase public awareness and support for crime prevention, and to enhance the capacity of communities to deal with crime and victimization. The Strategy is aimed at developing community-based responses to crime, with a priority emphasis on children, youth, Aboriginal people and the personal security of women and girls. The Strategy invests in activities that address risk factors in people's lives, such as abuse, violence, poor parenting, and drug and alcohol abuse.

The three objectives of the National Crime Prevention Strategy are to:

- promote integrated action of key governmental and nongovernmental partners to reduce crime and victimization

³ Crime prevention through social development (CPSD) is a long-term, proactive approach. It is directed at removing those personal, social and economic factors that lead some individuals to engage in criminal acts or become victims of crime. See the National Crime Prevention Centre. (2000). "Crime Prevention through Social Development." Fact Sheet. Ottawa: Department of Justice Canada.

- assist communities in developing and implementing community-based solutions to problems that contribute to crime and victimization, particularly as they affect children, youth, women and Aboriginal persons
- increase public awareness and support for effective approaches to crime prevention.

The Strategy is composed of three major program elements: the National Crime Prevention Centre (NCPC), the Safer Communities Initiative, and the Promotion and Public Education Program.

National Crime Prevention Centre (NCPC)

Phase II has included the creation of the National Crime Prevention Centre, located within the Department of Justice Canada. NCPC is responsible for the overall management of the National Strategy. NCPC works in collaboration and consultation with its federal partners and provincial and territorial governments to implement the Strategy.

Safer Communities Initiative

The Safer Communities Initiative consists of five grant and contribution funding programs: the Community Mobilization Program, Crime Prevention Investment Fund, Crime Prevention Partnership Program, Business Action Program on Crime Prevention and the Strategic Fund. These programs provide financial support to communities and organizations to develop, implement and evaluate crime prevention models.

Promotion and Public Education Program

The purpose of the Promotion and Public Education Program is to increase awareness and knowledge about crime and victimization and effective responses to them. The program challenges Canadians of all ages and walks of life to take part in creating a safer environment for themselves, their families and neighbours. The program supports the dissemination of ‘lessons learned’ from projects funded by the Strategy.

Federal/Provincial/Territorial Working Group on Community Safety and Crime Prevention

While the provinces and territories have the primary jurisdiction and responsibility to deliver many of the services and programs that contribute to safer communities, the federal government also has a significant role and mandate in crime prevention and community safety.

The Federal/Provincial/Territorial Working Group on Community Safety and Crime Prevention provides a forum for collaboration and coordination of community safety and crime prevention under the umbrella of the National Crime Prevention Strategy.

Related Federal Activities

The National Crime Prevention Strategy complements the many ongoing, multidimensional and multisectoral activities that are under way at the provincial/territorial and community levels. Other federal initiatives such as the Family Violence Initiative, Aboriginal Justice Strategy, Canada's Drug Strategy, the National Homelessness Initiative, and the National Children's Agenda and the Centres of Excellence on Children's Well-being are some of the other federal mechanisms that contribute to community safety and crime prevention.

For more information about the National Crime Prevention Strategy:

Toll-free telephone: 1-877-302-NCPC

Website: www.prevention.gc.ca

E-mail: info@prevention.gc.ca

For information on federal government programs and services:

Website: www.canada.gc.ca

Crime Prevention in Nunavut: An Overview

The key context for crime prevention in Nunavut is Inuit self-determination. An emphasis on community-based approaches to crime prevention and victimization is an important part of the ongoing development of the justice system in Nunavut.

The Government of Nunavut works closely with the Department of Justice Canada to implement the National Crime Prevention Strategy, and to coordinate support for community-based crime prevention initiatives across Nunavut. Under the Strategy, Nunavut's priorities include:

- taking action on crime
- recognizing children and families as priority sectors of the population
- promoting youth involvement and positive lifestyle choices
- preventing family violence
- addressing the concerns of victims and potential victims
- preventing crime by exploring community-based restorative justice
- supporting Inuit justice initiatives
- promoting safer schools.

Crime prevention activities in Nunavut tend to have a strong focus on healing, and on providing culturally appropriate programming for young people.

Many different players – such as the Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami (ITK), the RCMP, the Nunavut Government, Department of Justice Canada and community-based organizations – are contributing to the development of a justice and corrections infrastructure, including crime prevention activities, in Nunavut.

For more information, contact:

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Nunavut

PRE-EMPLOYMENT LIFE-SKILLS PROGRAM

Issue: Youth at risk

Description: Location: Iqaluit, Nunavut

Sponsoring organization: Inuksuk High School

The student population of Inuksuk High School is approximately 400. Three-quarters of the students are Inuit. A significant number of the students do not graduate – the retention rate is less than 35 percent. Young people who do not complete high school may not find employment and may become involved in crime.

During the 2001-02 school year, the Pre-Employment Life-Skills Program at Inuksuk High School offered non-academic courses in pre-trades carpentry and cooking for unemployed young adults from across Nunavut, as well as a number of high school students who were at high risk of dropping out. The goal of the program was to enhance young people's skills and their self-esteem.

All students received basic training in a trade, plus life-skills coaching in areas such as HIV/AIDS prevention, substance abuse, job safety, first aid, financial planning, résumé writing, job searching and job keeping. Staff provided one-on-one counselling and support, as needed.

All students were provided the opportunity to participate in a four-week work placement, either in Iqaluit or in their home community. Cooking students, for example, ran a daily hot lunch program for Inuksuk High School and made meals for the Qayuqtuvik Association soup kitchen in Iqaluit.

Students in the pre-trades carpentry program received instruction in math, science and English to prepare them for the Nunavut Arctic College entrance exam.

As of May 2002, of the 16 students who completed the Pre-Employment Life-Skills Program, two had qualified to compete in the Skills Canada competition in Fort Smith, Northwest Territories, and seven were currently employed or on a work term – this number was expected to increase as the spring construction season began in Nunavut.

Inuksuk High School hopes to expand the program to involve more high school students at high risk for leaving school and to include training in hairdressing, meat cutting and upholstery.

Contact: Inuksuk High School
Tel: (867) 979-5281
Fax: (867) 979-4380

TRADITIONAL ARTS AND LITERACY PROGRAM

Issue: Communities at risk

Description: Location: Rankin Inlet, Nunavut

Sponsoring organization: The Matchbox Gallery

Rankin Inlet is a community of approximately 2,000 people, the majority of whom are Inuit. The town is located about 640 kilometres north of Churchill, Manitoba, on the west coast of Hudson's Bay in Nunavut.

The Matchbox Gallery is a cross-cultural display centre where Inuit and non-Inuit artists come together to work in a variety of media, share information and sell their art. The gallery encourages and supports painting, drawing, printmaking and soapstone carving. It has produced a highly skilled group of ceramics artists who have shown their work internationally.

In the winter of 2001-02, the gallery offered an 18-week traditional arts and literacy program for disenfranchised youth, adults and elders, including people who have been incarcerated or have had substance abuse problems.

The program is based on the premise that, if people learn how to make art, they open their minds and begin to problem-solve as part of the creative process. This makes them more open to learning academic subjects.

Each day began with a customized academic program, which included mathematics, reading aloud and written vocabulary exercises. The students then moved on to drawing techniques – drawing is important because it is closely associated with reading and writing and is a primary tool in any arts discipline. Next the students worked on their journals and shared their thoughts and experiences. They then focused on making art, concentrating on painting, printmaking, ceramics and carving. Language instruction in Inuktitut was also part of the program, as were presentations by Inuit artists.

By the end of the program, students had learned how to deal with the public, how to price their work and how to present it. A number of students sold their work through the gallery.

The program offered a cooperative, supportive environment that nurtured students' individuality, affirmed their culture and language, and provided an important opportunity to socialize.

Contact: The Matchbox Gallery
Tel: (867) 645-2674
Fax: (867) 645-2674
E-mail: matchboxgallery@hotmail.com

YOUTH SUMMER LAND PROGRAM

Issue: Youth at risk

Description: Location: Pangnirtung, Nunavut

Sponsoring organization: Kanguit Justice Committee

Pangnirtung is a hamlet on Pangnirtung Fiord, Baffin Island. During the summer of 2000, Pangnirtung's community justice committee – the Kanguit Justice Committee – held two traditional life-skills camps for at-risk young people. Many youth in the community have little or no opportunity to go out on the land and learn their ancestors' way of life.

The camps were held at Sannirut in Cumberland Sound, a 45-minute boat ride from Pangnirtung. Twelve youth, aged 12 to 18, participated in the first camp, held in midsummer. Seven young adults, aged 20-33 years, went out on the land in late August. Two local couples acted as guides and instructors for each camp. An elder taught the young people about traditional life.

During the camps, the young people hunted whales, seals, caribou and ducks. They picked duck eggs, dug clams and fished with nets and rods. They learned how to butcher seals and ducks and preserve the meat; clean and prepare seal skins and caribou hides; make rope from seal skin; and prepare seal and whale blubber for qulliq fuel. They learned how to predict weather based on cloud conditions and how to navigate a boat through sea ice. They listened to stories from the past and learned about place names and origins. They identified vegetation and made traditional tea. They learned about how their ancestors used caribou parts – membranes for bandages, bone for needles and tendons for thread. They played Inuit baseball using a ball sewn from caribou and a piece of driftwood.

Coping with bad weather became part of the learning experience. In summer, most hunting is done by boat, but floating ice often made it difficult to go on the water as did high winds. Although the camps were equipped with emergency food stores, the young people gained a new appreciation for the hardships their ancestors faced in ensuring an adequate food supply. These camps gave young people a first-hand understanding of, and respect for, their ancestors' knowledge, skills, values and way of life.

Contact: Kanguit Justice Committee
Tel: (867) 473-8018
Fax: (867) 473-8832

Crime Prevention in The Northwest Territories: An Overview

In the Northwest Territories, taking action on crime is a priority. It includes:

- fostering community involvement/ownership
- prioritizing children and families
- promoting youth involvement and positive lifestyle choices
- preventing family violence
- addressing the concerns of victims and potential victims
- exploring community based restorative justice
- supporting First Nation/Inuit justice initiatives
- promoting safer schools.

The Government of the Northwest Territories works closely with the Department of Justice Canada to implement the National Crime Prevention Strategy, and to coordinate support for community-based crime prevention initiatives across the Northwest Territories.

Justice and crime prevention initiatives in the Northwest Territories must be sensitive to unique cultural traditions, customs and practices. The Community Based Restorative Justice Strategy recognizes the role of First Nations’/Inuit values and culture while fostering healthy communities. It emphasizes crime prevention initiatives, which incorporate traditional values and strengthen family relationships and community spirit.

The NWT’s approach to crime prevention involves significant cooperation and collaboration between and among levels of government and government departments including Justice and Health and Social Services. At the community level, community groups, service providers (including the RCMP), schools, parents and young people are working together to meet the needs of communities in areas such as recreation, social care, health promotion and education.

For more information, contact:

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Justice Program Department of Justice
Justice of Northwest Territories
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Website : www.gov.nt.ca/justice

Northwest Territories

FORT SMITH YOUTH CENTRE

Issue: Youth at risk

Description: Location: Fort Smith, Northwest Territories

Sponsoring organization: Uncle Gabe's Friendship Centre, Fort Smith

The Fort Smith Youth Centre (previously called the Fort Smith Roots and Wings Centre) provides a safe place for young people in Fort Smith to 'hang out.' On an average evening, between 30 and 40 young people from 8-19 years of age spend time at the Youth Centre. Located in Uncle Gabe's Friendship Centre, the Youth Centre is a designated room where young people can go to listen to music, watch television, use the computer and just be with their friends. Open from Monday to Thursday, 4-10 p.m., and on Friday and Saturday from 6 p.m. to midnight, the centre holds 'movie nights' on weekends. Young people can also use the Friendship Centre's gym.

Every school day at noon, youth workers provide a free lunch program at the Youth Centre for about 30 students from the local elementary school and the nearby high school. For some, it is too far to walk home for lunch in cold weather. Others may not have had any breakfast or there may not be any food at home.

After school, the Youth Centre is open from 4-5 p.m. for young people who want to study, use the Internet to do research or get help with school work.

In April 2001, the centre held a highly successful youth conference called The Focus of Today, the Power of Tomorrow. Young people from the community attended, as did youth representatives from friendship centres across the North. The conference included workshops for youth on motivation, personal empowerment, anger management, teen suicide, teen pregnancy, youth gangs, youth crime, street youth, incarceration, alcohol, drugs, FAS/FAE and HIV/AIDS. There were sessions on traditional spiritual awareness and traditional birthing, as well as opportunities to do crafts including beading and making dream catchers. The conference ended with a community feast, which included a drum dance, a round dance and a giveaway.

Contact: Uncle Gabe's Friendship Centre

Tel: (867) 872-3004

Fax: (867) 872-5313

GWICH'IN CRIME PREVENTION PROJECT: THE OUTDOOR CLASSROOM

Issue: Youth at risk

Description: Location: Fort McPherson, Northwest Territories

Sponsoring organization: Gwich'in Tribal Council

Over the past decade, the Gwich'in people have been working on settling their land claim, achieving economic stability and establishing self-government. Meanwhile, Gwich'in communities face high rates of violent crime, sexual assault, family violence and child sexual assault. The sense of hopelessness among young people – demonstrated by sporadic school attendance, school leaving and involvement in arson, theft and mischief – is a serious concern.

Since 1999, through the Gwich'in Crime Prevention Project at Chief Julius School in Fort McPherson, four crime prevention workers have been working with students aged 6-12 and their teachers, families and other community members. The goals of the program are to allow Gwich'in children to develop confidence, receive an education that includes both traditional and school-based learning experiences and gain a sense of respect for their surroundings.

Each spring, students in grades 4-6 spend a week at the Outdoor Classroom at Tl'oondih, a lodge facility 28 kilometres from Fort McPherson. They spend mornings on academic work and devote afternoons to learning traditional skills and culture. They learn to set up camp in the snow and compete in team snowshoe relays and tea boiling contests. Moose hunting expeditions by skidoo are a highlight.

Younger children go on day trips to observe the changing seasons and learn about birds and animals. They learn how to pick berries, recognize animal tracks, make rabbit snares and set fishing nets under the ice.

A hot breakfast program and an after-school program run throughout the school year. As part of the Dene Kede curriculum, weekly circles focus on social skills, communication, respect, and conflict and anger management. Elders participate in the circles and join others from the community at tea parties and other events in the school.

The Outdoor Classroom is a three-year project (1999 to 2002) that is being evaluated by the National Crime Prevention Strategy. The Fort McPherson project model may be implemented in other Gwich'in communities in the future.

Contact: Gwich'in Tribal Council

Tel: (867) 777-4869

Fax: (867) 777-4538

YOUTH/ELDER ON THE LAND TRIPS

Issue: Youth at risk

Description: Location: Holman, Northwest Territories

Sponsoring organization: Elders Committee of Holman

Holman is a hamlet of about 450 residents situated on the west coast of Victoria Island in the Beaufort Sea. The number of elders in the community is dwindling, and there is increasing concern that with this loss, the community will also lose any knowledge of its language and traditions.

The Elders Committee of Holman wanted to find a way to pass some of their traditional knowledge, including hunting skills, to the young people of the community. Many young people in Holman have not been out on the land. They have not had the opportunity or the equipment to learn traditional skills.

In the summer of 2000, the committee organized four trips – a caribou hunt, fishing trip and two seal hunting expeditions. Each trip lasted from two to five days and involved young people between 13 and 28 years of age. Elders from the community joined the youth on these trips, which were led by couples who acted as guides.

All of the groups camped at Aliiyakvik, a spot near a river that empties into Prince Albert Sound. Everyone worked together to set up tents, fetch water, make bannock, do the dishes and help each other. The young people learned some of the Inuinnaqtun language from the elders, who in turn learned some English from the youth.

These trips were an opportunity for young people and elders to have closer contact than usual. They allowed young and old to share a positive experience and learn from each other away from the community, in a natural setting. The trips provided young people with a positive outlet for their energies and gave the elders an opportunity to influence the young people's values.

Holman Community Corporation is planning several more hunting and fishing trips for youth and elders this summer.

Contact: Holman Community Corporation

Tel: (867) 396-4701

Fax: (867) 396-3284

Crime Prevention in The Yukon: An Overview

The Yukon government has made it a priority to support programs that address social and economic causes of crime. Other priority areas include crime prevention initiatives that emphasize the needs of children and youth and community healing initiatives.

The Yukon government works closely with the Department of Justice Canada to implement the National Crime Prevention Strategy and to coordinate support for crime prevention activities throughout the Yukon.

Territorial level support for crime prevention involves many different government mechanisms including the Crime Prevention Victim Services Trust Fund, the Youth Investment Fund and the Kids Recreation Fund. Many other agencies and organizations are also involved in crime prevention activities including, for example: Crime Prevention Yukon, the RCMP, the Whitehorse Safer City Strategy, Yukon Social Services – Alcohol and Drug Services and Yukon Family and Children’s Services, among others.

The range of approaches to crime prevention in the Yukon includes crime prevention through social development, safer communities, problem-oriented prevention and community healing.

In all crime prevention activities, community involvement is key. Community members representing different sectors collaborate to identify the community’s crime prevention needs. All community members are encouraged to support and participate in crime prevention activities.

For more information, contact:

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Crime Prevention & Policing
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Tel: (867) 667-3709
Fax: (867) 393-6326
E-mail: kelli.taylor@gov.yk.ca
Website: www.justice.gov.yk.ca

Yukon

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY PEACE CORPS

Issue: Youth at risk

Description: Location: Whitehorse, Watson Lake and Dawson City, Yukon

Sponsoring organization: Yukon Entrepreneurship Centre Society (YECS)

The Yukon has high rates of school drop-out and illiteracy, and many young people who quit school have limited opportunities to learn skills. In an increasingly wired world, these young people are ending up on the 'have not' side of the digital divide.

Through the Information Technology Peace Corps (ITPC), young people who have some information technology skills are trained as peer mentors so they can share their knowledge with at-risk youth who are interested in learning these skills.

All young people involved in the program must become ITPC certified. They complete modules which include PC Purchase/Hardware, Digital Camera and Scanner, E-Mail/Setting Up Accounts, Web Design and Maintenance, File Management/Time Management, Software Support, E-Commerce Tutorial, Surfing the Web, E-Résumé and E-Hiring, Building a PC/PC Network for the Home, PC Donations and Repair, and Class Projects.

To date, the ITPC has set up seven community-based computer training labs, many in youth centres in Whitehorse, Watson Lake and Dawson City. ITPC trainees have been asked to provide IT support for Yukon Learn, Youth Conference, E-Commerce Training and the Skills Canada Competition. Young people involved in the program have used their skills as volunteers, in job placements, and as contract workers. They have become a resource for others in the community, including business people and students, who need assistance and tutoring.

Contact: Yukon Entrepreneurship Centre Society
Tel: (867) 393-3574
Fax: (867) 633-3995
E-mail: yecs@yt.sympatico.ca

KWANLIN DUN FIRST NATION HEALTHY FAMILIES PROGRAM

Issue: Families at risk

Description: Location: Kwanlin Dun First Nation, Yukon

Sponsoring organization: Kwanlin Dun First Nation Health Programs

The Kwanlin Dun First Nation (KDFN) Healthy Families Program serves the Kwanlin Dun First Nation, a community of approximately 1,200 people in Whitehorse. Members of other First Nations living in the Whitehorse area are also welcome, which increases the catchment of the program to about 3,000.

The KDFN Healthy Families Program is based on the US Healthy Families program model, but it has been adapted to meet the needs of First Nations families. The program is universal – no one is turned away. Women are encouraged to enter the program when they have reached their third month of pregnancy; and it is not limited to first-born children.

Home visits are the core of the program. A Healthy Families worker offers intensive support during regular visits, which take place from twice a week to bi-monthly, depending on the family's level of need. The worker builds a trusting relationship with the family and offers support that is linked to the family's strengths, needs and level of risk. Workers talk with parents about how to promote the healthy growth and development of their children. They support parents to adopt positive ways to interact with their children, such as reading to them. Workers also focus on parents' personal development and skills, and work with them to set goals. When needed, workers are prepared to talk about any issue that affects the family including alcohol, drugs or family violence. They provide referrals to other programs and resources available in the community as well as practical support such as transportation to and from counselling sessions and medical appointments. The program is available to the family until the child reaches age 5.

KDFN Healthy Families Program is one of three Healthy Families programs in Canada, which have been evaluated over a three-year period through the National Crime Prevention Strategy.

Contact: Kwanlin Dun First Nation
Tel: (867) 668-7289
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YUKON YOUTH LEADERSHIP PROJECT

Issue: Youth at risk

Description: Location: Yukon

Sponsoring organization: Crime Prevention Yukon

Each summer, since 1997, Crime Prevention Yukon has sent teams of skilled program leaders and coordinators, usually young people with postsecondary education in recreation, to live in rural Yukon communities and work with local children and youth.

Within each participating community, a sponsoring organization, such as the First Nation, the municipality, the Recreation Board or another local group, recruits local young people to participate as leadership trainees and pays them a nominal amount. Communities provide in-kind services, such as housing, for the program team.

Before school ends, the team visits the community. They go to local schools to talk about the program and find out what the young people are interested in doing. Then, for about one month in the summer, the team lives in the community and works closely with the local leadership trainees. Together, they identify and participate in training opportunities and organize activities such as baseball, floor hockey, arts and crafts (including traditional arts and crafts) and dances.

Leadership trainees learn how to plan and coordinate activities and training opportunities, how to network with others in their community to access resources, and how to advertise events. By the time the program team leaves, trainees have developed their skills, increased their confidence and gained experience in delivering programs. They can build on this experience and continue working with others in their community to provide recreational activities and cultural events for local children and youth.

Contact: Crime Prevention Yukon
Tel: (867) 668-4420
Fax: (867) 393-3759
E-mail: cpy@whtvcable.com

Crime Prevention in British Columbia: An Overview

Crime prevention in British Columbia involves multiple players at all levels including government, police, schools and communities. Some of the agencies and organizations that are playing a leading role include:

- Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General
- Inter-Ministry Committee on Youth Violence and Crime
- Safe Communities Working Group
- Provincial Prostitution Unit
- RCMP National Youth Strategy
- British Columbia Crime Prevention Association.

The Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General through its *Taking a Stand* Initiative (see below) assists communities in identifying crime problems, promotes promising practices and promotes the important role of prevention, coordination and responsibility. The Ministry also works with the Department of Justice Canada to implement the National Crime Prevention Strategy and coordinate support for crime prevention initiatives throughout British Columbia. Under the Strategy, British Columbia's specific priorities include:

- safe school initiatives
- urban inner city safety issues
- substance abuse prevention
- other crime prevention efforts that are seen as a priority by communities in addressing problems that they face.

Genuine, active involvement by youth is a central component of crime prevention activity in British Columbia. The province's *Taking a Stand* Initiative has developed programs which have been implemented and supported by youth and communities across British Columbia. These programs foster youth and community involvement at all levels and rely on partnerships with police, schools, businesses and the community. They aim to:

- prevent youth crime
- prevent youth violence and victimization
- work in partnership with communities to enhance community safety and support crime prevention efforts
- support community justice initiatives.

For more information, contact:

Ms. Wendy Taylor (Co-chair, Federal/Provincial/Territorial Working Group on Community Safety and Crime Prevention)

Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General, Community Justice Branch
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E-mail: Wendy.Taylor@gems3.gov.bc.ca

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British Columbia

COWICHAN VALLEY SAFER FUTURES

Issue: Women's personal safety

Description: Location: Cowichan Valley, British Columbia

Sponsoring organization: Cowichan Women Against Violence Society

The Cowichan Valley, located on Vancouver Island between Victoria and Nanaimo, encompasses 13 small municipalities and electoral areas, including some rural and isolated communities.

More than 20 years ago, the Cowichan Women Against Violence Society began providing services for women dealing with issues of violence. In 1996, in partnership with the Cowichan Valley Regional District, the Society began carrying out women's safety audit projects in the valley. Since then, the safety audit process has become a powerful community development tool that brings women and decision-makers together to talk about their community and envision it in a different way.

In the past six years, Safer Futures has evolved and expanded its efforts to integrate women's personal security issues into community planning processes and policies. Research, education and community action initiatives have included:

- Conducting more than 20 site-specific safety audits resulting in more than 500 recommendations – many of which have been implemented
- Developing tools and resources such as the Cowichan Valley Safety Audit Guide and Planning for Safer Communities Guide
- Providing education and training for citizens, planners, developers, architects, members of community organizations, and regional and provincial officials
- Responding to inquiries for information and assistance
- Engaging in policy and guideline development
- Consulting for design and management of public spaces
- Conducting specialized initiatives for community safety
- Sharing information about this work with other BC communities that have requested information, education and assistance to develop similar programs.

Contact: Cowichan Valley Safer Futures Program/CWAV Society

Tel: (250) 746-9221

Fax: (250) 748-9364

E-mail: saferfutures@cwav.org

NIGHTS ALIVE

Issue: Youth at risk

Description: Location: British Columbia

Sponsoring organization: Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General of British Columbia, Policing and Community Safety Branch

In communities throughout British Columbia, the Nights Alive program helps local sponsors, including parks and recreation departments, school districts and other registered agencies, put after-hours recreational programs in place for young people.

All Nights Alive projects are designed by youth for youth. To receive funding, sponsors must involve young people in all stages of the project – from needs identification to implementation and evaluation.

Through Nights Alive projects, young people have developed sports, arts and music programs, and participated in youth forums and other youth-driven activities. Training in conflict resolution, peer mediation and life skills supplements the other activities.

Nights Alive projects operate after hours in existing community facilities such as schools and recreation centres. All activities are offered to youth at no cost.

Nights Alive projects are based on partnerships among local youth, the police and the community. Usually, the local BC Youth Police Officer is involved. Communities show their support for the project by providing financial contributions, program space, transportation, office equipment or other types of resources and in-kind support.

Contact: British Columbia Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General
Policing and Community Safety Branch
Community Programs Division
Tel: (604) 660-2605 or toll free: 1-866-668-2137
Fax: (604) 775-2674
E-mail: sgcpd@gems2.gov.bc.ca

PREVENTION AND EARLY INTERVENTION OF SEXUALLY EXPLOITED CHILDREN AND YOUTH PROJECT

Issue: Youth at risk

Description: Location: Capital Region, Victoria, British Columbia

Sponsoring organization: Capital Region Action Team Committee on Sexually Exploited Youth

The Prevention and Early Intervention of Sexually Exploited Children and Youth Project helps young people who are likely to enter, or are already involved in, the sex trade in Victoria, British Columbia.

The Outreach Team (the Capital Region Action Team on Sexually Exploited Youth or CATSEY), which includes a police officer and a primary intervention worker, works with sexually exploited youth. The team focuses on early identification, intervention and referral.

Safe homes are available. The Kiwanis Emergency Youth Shelter makes short-term housing (up to five nights) available for youth aged 13-18. Medium-term housing (for up to three months) is available in five private care homes supervised by the Boys and Girls Club Services of Victoria.

The Day Program (no longer offered) for youth aged 12-18 who are in the sex trade or at risk of entering the sex trade provided a safe, empowering environment where youth could develop skills, work on school credits, obtain health information and counselling, and participate in recreational activities.

The project is now developing a new intervention model that will focus on increasing awareness among members of the public and service providers of sexual exploitation issues. A new Mobile Youth Services Team will include three youth response workers and one police officer.

Contact: Capital Region Action Team (CRAT)

Website: www.crd.bc.ca/actionteam/index.htm

YOUTH TAKING ACTION

Issue: Youth engagement in crime prevention

Description: Location: British Columbia

Sponsoring organization: Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General, Policing and Community Safety Branch, Community Programs Division

Youth Taking Action is a province-wide violence-prevention initiative for young people aged 13-19 in British Columbia. Youth Taking Action workshops are offered across the province.

Each workshop includes teams of six to eight young people and one adult (a teacher, administrator, counsellor or police officer) from the school district. Workshop participants learn about the issues facing youth and receive training in leadership, presentation and facilitation. Workshop participants learn how to work with partners – including other youth, teachers, parents, police and other members of the community – to identify and take action on the issues that affect them in their school or community.

During the workshop, teams begin to develop their own interactive presentations for other youth. Each participant receives the Youth Taking Action Resource manual, which provides additional information about understanding the problem, taking action, building a team, developing and delivering presentations, promoting events and getting support from partners.

Youth Taking Action workshops have stimulated youth-led projects across British Columbia. Teams have used many different creative approaches, including dance, theatre, music, journalism and video, to communicate with their peers. Through these workshops and performances, young people are addressing topics such as peer pressure, bullying, racism, youth violence, drugs and alcohol, sexuality, suicide, prostitution, poverty and unemployment.

Contact: Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General
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Crime Prevention in Alberta: An Overview

Alberta's crime prevention strategy emphasizes the link between crime prevention and policing, and the role of community partners.

In 1999, the Government of Alberta announced enhancements to its existing crime prevention program. Through *Focus on Crime Prevention – A Strategy for Alberta*, the province established a new Community Crime Prevention Grant Fund, a public awareness campaign, and enhanced the Aboriginal Crime Prevention Initiative.

The goals of the Crime Prevention Grant Fund are to:

- encourage people to get involved in crime prevention in their communities
- encourage community groups and organizations to develop and implement innovative crime prevention programs where they work best – *at the community level*
- assist the community in promoting partnerships and initiatives effective in addressing local crime prevention needs.

Funding is available for community and personal safety initiatives that address:

- theft
- vandalism
- crimes against the elderly
- the development of community partnerships to deal with local crime problems and enhance community safety.

Expansion of the Aboriginal Crime Prevention Initiative is a key component of crime prevention in Alberta. This Initiative was developed in response to the expressed desire of First Nations' people to be responsible for the creation and delivery of crime prevention programs appropriate to their unique culture and local needs.

Alberta Solicitor General works closely with the Department of Justice Canada to implement the National Crime Prevention Strategy, and to coordinate support for crime prevention initiatives across the provinces.

Alberta Solicitor General also supports the work of a number of key organizations involved in crime prevention including, for example, the Alberta Community Crime Prevention Association and the Alberta School Resource Officers Association.

For more information, contact:

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Website: www4.gov.ab.ca/just/crimeprev/

Alberta

ABORIGINAL CRIME PREVENTION CO-ORDINATORS

Issue: Crime prevention in Aboriginal communities

Description: Location: Alberta

Sponsoring organization: Alberta Solicitor General

Alberta Solicitor General currently supports five Crime Prevention Coordinator positions, which cover 17 reserve communities. The positions are located within the following organizations and communities: Tsuu T'ina Nation-Stoney Corrections Society (Tsuu T'ina & Stoney reserves); Yellowhead Tribal Community Corrections Society (Alexander, Alexis, Enoch, Sunchild, and O'Chiese reserves); Kainai Community Corrections Society (Blood Tribe reserve); and Lesser Slave Lake Regional Police Service (Driftpile, Duncan, Kapawe'no, Horse Lake, Sawridge, Sturgeon, Sucker Creek, Swan River reserves).

Crime prevention coordinators work closely with community members to develop culturally appropriate programs, which address community needs. The coordinators are a resource to help community groups, including local police services, community agencies, elders and schools, obtain information and access resources to implement crime prevention programs.

Meeting the needs of youth is a primary focus. Programs for young people include recreational, employment, educational and social support activities. Some communities, for example, have organized camping trips where young people have spent time on the land with community elders and other resource people from the community. These trips have been an opportunity for participants to share experiences and cultural knowledge, build stronger relationships, and discuss community issues and concerns. Other examples of crime prevention activities have included workshops on domestic violence, crime prevention conferences and presentations in the schools.

In one community which had recently settled a land claim, there was concern that young people receiving financial settlements would be taken advantage of. This community organized a series of workshops for youth and young adults on financial management.

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E-mail: Gloria.Ohrt@gov.ab.ca

VEGREVILLE COMMUNITY MOBILIZATION PROGRAM

Issue: Youth engagement in crime prevention

Description: Location: Vegreville, Alberta

Sponsoring organization: Vegreville and District Family & Community Support Services

Vegreville is a town of approximately 5,300 situated about an hour east of Edmonton. In 1999, a rash of vandalism and property crime led to the implementation of a youth crime prevention program that builds on, and contributes to, community resources.

Interviews with the local police, school officials, business people and others indicated that only a small minority of youth was actually causing the problems. To counter the stereotyping and growing fear of young people in the community, the coordinator of the crime prevention program launched a community education process, primarily through the media.

Drawing on the Youth in Action model from the United States, the program co-ordinator established a local Youth in Action group to reach out to young people aged 12-24 who do not have the opportunity to participate in hockey, dance or other recreational activities. The group is based on the concept that "education plus action equals change."

To get started, all the young people in town were invited to help decorate and ride on a float for the local Canada Day Parade. Local businesses provided food and drinks. Since then, Youth in Action has held weekly meetings where young people can talk about issues affecting them, get support and make a positive contribution to the community.

In Vegreville, the Youth in Action group is recognized and respected as a positive community resource. Now in its third year, the group continues to play an active role in the community by co-hosting youth workshops; making and selling crafts and donating the proceeds; providing free Easter egg hunts for all the children in the community; and helping to start a local youth centre.

In May 2002, Vegreville Community Mobilization Program received the Alberta Solicitor General's Crime Prevention Award in the Community Organization category.

Contact: Vegreville Community Mobilization Program
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E-mail: fcss@vegnet.com

YOUTH SAFETY PROGRAM

Issue: Women and girls' personal safety

Description: Location: Calgary, Alberta

Sponsoring organization: Calgary Immigrant Women's Association

The Calgary Immigrant Women's Association (CIWA) has been serving immigrant and refugee women since 1982. In 1997, CIWA started the Girls Culture Club, a program for immigrant girls and Canadian-born girls of immigrant parents, in the school system. The program currently operates in three schools and involves girls from 12-19 years of age. At weekly lunchtime meetings, members discuss issues that affect them – at school, in their families and as women. They also have fun working on crafts or organizing field trips.

When safety issues emerged in club discussions, CIWA created the Youth Safety Program, an adaptation of an adult women's safety program that CIWA offers to immigrant and refugee women in Calgary in partnership with the Women's Centre of Calgary.

The Youth Safety Program comprised 11 workshops on seven different topics.

- The family violence workshop focused on rights and resources for girls who witness or experience violence.
- The self-defence workshops taught moves and strategies.
- The workshops on home and neighbourhood safety talked about what to do when home alone, how to be safe walking to and from school and how to make a home fire-safety plan.
- The workshops on bullying and harassment explored what is acceptable behaviour and provided information about what to do and who to talk to.
- A session on alcohol and drug abuse addressed peer pressure and the effects and consequences of using alcohol and drugs.
- A criminal justice system workshop explained the consequences of offences such as shoplifting or driving without a licence and provided information about laws such as the *Young Offenders Act*.
- The health and nutrition workshops explored the dangers of anorexia and bulimia and the importance of proper nutrition.

Led by volunteer presenters from the community, including police officers, the workshops were held in two junior high schools in the fall and winter of 2000-01. All girls were welcome to attend, but it was made clear that if they became uncomfortable with any topic, they did not have to stay.

Contact: Calgary Immigrant Women's Association
Tel: (403) 517-8830
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Crime Prevention in Saskatchewan: An Overview

The Government of Saskatchewan emphasizes a community-based social development model of crime prevention. One of the primary goals of the province's crime prevention strategy (in place since 1997-98) is to address the causes of criminal behaviour and victimization. The other goals of the Strategy are to:

- reduce the incidence of crime
- prevent youth from entering the criminal justice system
- facilitate an integrated approach to crime prevention
- reduce feelings of fear and victimization
- build the community capacity to initiate actions to make communities safer.

A social development approach to crime prevention – with its emphasis on early childhood development and families at risk – is consistent with *Saskatchewan's Action Plan for Healthy Children*, the guiding framework for the province's highly integrated approach to social policy and program development. The Action Plan emphasizes investing in integrated approaches to early childhood development and providing services for families.

Alongside the provincial crime prevention strategy led by Saskatchewan Justice, many other initiatives – both provincial and federal – also address the root causes of social problems in Saskatchewan. Examples include the Community Action Program for Children, Canada Prenatal Nutrition Program, Aboriginal Head Start, Integrated School Linked Services, Aboriginal Policy Framework, Health Renewal, Justice 2001, Family Violence Strategy, Sport and Recreation Strategy and Housing Initiatives.

To coordinate these efforts, Saskatchewan has implemented a collaborative, integrated approach to service delivery. Regional Intersectoral Committees (RICs) – established in each of the nine regions of the province – bring government agencies and community organizations together to identify and plan for community needs, and coordinate support for community-based programs. The province also works closely with the Department of Justice Canada to implement the National Crime Prevention Strategy and to coordinate support for crime prevention activities across the province.

Support for community-based social development crime prevention initiatives in northern and Aboriginal communities is a priority.

For more information, contact:

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Saskatchewan

CRIME PREVENTION PROJECT 2000

Issue: Youth at risk

Description: Location: Kamsack, Saskatchewan

Sponsoring organization: Kamsack Family Resource Centre (now amalgamated with the Kamsack Urban Wellness Program) and the Yorkton Tribal Council

Located in the southeast corner of Saskatchewan, adjacent to the Manitoba border, Kamsack is a community of approximately 1,700 residents, including about 500 First Nations people. The Keeseekoose and Key Reserves neighbour the town. The Cote First Nation is about five kilometres away. Many people in the community are affected by the legacy of the residential school system and, in recent years, the community has experienced a high crime rate and a declining population.

To address local crime issues, the Kamsack Family Resource Centre established an interagency community crime prevention committee and conducted a survey to assess the needs of young people and adults in the community. The resulting activities included a community workshop on race relations, a community gym and weekly sharing circles for boys and girls.

The boys and girls sharing circles provided troubled young people with an opportunity to heal. The circle is a place to speak from the heart, share feelings and fears, learn trust, tell the truth, care for others and build self-esteem. In the circle, everyone is equal and all are treated with patience, unconditional love and respect. Each person belongs and is listened to – no one is ever interrupted while they are sharing, and no one is pressured to share if they are not ready. Members of the community, such as respected elders, acted as role models and made presentations. Initially attended mainly by First Nations youth, some non-native youth eventually joined the circles.

Now these circles have been incorporated into after school programming, and the circle concept is being used to help settle disputes between families and promote healing in the wider community.

Contact: Kamsack Family Resource Centre
Tel: (306) 542-3453
Fax: (306) 542-2995

MONTREAL LAKE CREE NATION COMMUNITY MOBILIZATION

Issue: Youth at risk

Description: Location: Montreal Lake, Saskatchewan

Sponsoring organization: Montreal Lake Cree Nation Justice Committee

Montreal Lake is a reserve community. In 1999-2000, it hired a crime prevention worker to help the community mobilize to address youth crime. The crime prevention worker planned and coordinated programs for youth including:

- Conducting a comprehensive youth survey
- Working with the local school to establish a number of clubs for youth
- Facilitating weekly workshops for young offenders
- Working with the RCMP to establish a ride-along program for high school students
- Publishing a community newsletter on crime prevention and wellness activities
- Developing a family activity handbook/resource for parents
- Holding summer and winter Crime Prevention Cultural Camps for youth-at-risk in the community.

Forty young people participated in workshops and other activities at the summer cultural camp held in August 2000. At a winter camp on a local trapper's trap line, young people learned traditional skills and winter survival strategies. Local elders, trappers and wellness facilitators participated in the camp, which included presentations on solving problems and respecting others.

The focus on youth issues continued during the second phase of this project (2000-01):

- Six elders conducted a workshop on bullying at a school assembly.
- Eight unemployed youth were hired to coordinate the activities of the Youth Helping Youth mentorship program, which provided activities for children and young people aged 7-14.
- Another crime prevention camp was held in August 2001.
- Young people attended weekly wellness circles for men and women in the community.

Contact: Montreal Lake Cree Nation

Tel: (306) 663-5349

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PA OUTREACH PROGRAM

Issue: Youth at risk

Description: Location: Prince Albert, Saskatchewan

Sponsoring organization: Prince Albert Youth Council

Prince Albert is a city of approximately 40,000. There are eight reserve communities in the surrounding area.

The Prince Albert Youth Council develops programs to support and empower local youth. Membership in the Prince Albert Youth Council is open to any young person in Prince Albert. The council's vision is to create a Circle of Courage – a place where young people can gain a sense of belonging, mastery, independence and generosity. The council's main activities include the Youth Activity Centre, the Literacy Program and the PA Outreach Program.

The Royal Commonwealth Society of Canada recently recognized the Youth Activity Centre as one of the five top youth projects in Canada. Every night of the week at the centre's supper program, young people cook meals for 50 to 100 of their peers. Recreation programs run each evening and there are opportunities to participate in clubs, jam sessions, cultural programs (sweats, feasts, round dances and cultural teachings), and free music and drama lessons. An STD nurse and an addictions counsellor provide information and support.

During the day, the centre's two full-time tutors run a literacy and basic job skills program for young people up to the age of 24 who want to work on their math, reading and computer skills or take high school credit courses.

Through the PA Outreach Program, youth workers reach out to young people who are working in the sex trade. Three nights a week, driving a van stocked with supplies, the workers provide practical assistance – condoms, nutritious meals and beverages – as well as emotional support and referrals to young people on the streets of the city. In partnership with the Waskegun Youth Centre, the council is in the process of setting up a storefront centre where young people will be able to take showers or do their laundry. A peer support group has been started, and a handbook on how to survive the streets is being produced. The booklet will deal with handling 'bad dates,' addictions and other health issues. Two 'safe beds' are available at the YM/YWCA.

Contact: Prince Albert Youth Council
Tel: (306) 953-4822
Fax: (306) 953-4821
E-mail: pegrubin@hotmail.com

Crime Prevention in Manitoba: An Overview

According to Manitoba Justice, all governments, groups, organizations and individuals in Manitoba have a role to play in preventing crime and victimization.

Crime prevention is a key component of the province's *Maintaining Safer Communities* strategy, which focuses on preventing violent crime.

Manitoba's Strategy emphasizes a partnership approach that involves communities, police, other governments, businesses and neighbourhood residents.

Domestic violence strategies are a specific component of Manitoba's *Maintaining Safer Communities*. Recent improvements to existing initiatives include:

- the first Family Violence Court
- specialized prosecutors for domestic violence crimes
- automatic charging practices where evidence of abuse exists
- specialized corrections programming for domestic violence offenders.

Manitoba Justice works closely with the Department of Justice Canada to implement the National Crime Prevention Strategy and to coordinate support for crime prevention initiatives across the province. Activities include both situational and social development approaches to crime prevention, such as Citizens on Patrol and Crime Watch pager programs, as well as healthy start programs for children (early childhood development, recreation, school programs and Native youth programs).

For more information, contact:

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Manitoba

LIGHTHOUSES

Issue: Youth at risk

Description: Location: Manitoba

Sponsoring organization: Neighbourhoods Alive!

Manitoba's Lighthouses program is an adaptation of the Nights Alive program from British Columbia. The Lighthouses model was developed after consultations with community-based, youth-serving organizations. Since April 2001, the program has helped youth, police and community organizations in 21 communities across Manitoba set up after-hours activities in under-used community facilities such as schools, recreation centres and church basements.

Youth must be involved in every stage of program development and decision-making. The community steering committee must include a minimum of two youth representatives. A host agency must obtain \$2 million insurance and take responsibility for administering project funds.

Recreation activities are the key tool to engage youth, offer them a safe, healthy and positive environment, and provide alternatives to crime. Conflict resolution, peer mediation and life-skills training supplement the recreational programs.

To date, Lighthouses projects have included teen parenting skills workshops, sports tournaments (including parents and other family members), basketball, volleyball, floor hockey, swimming, arts and crafts clubs, cooking clubs, computer clubs, homework clubs, drama, video production, field trips and fundraising events. Lighthouses activities run every week, all year long. The program is intended for children and young people from 8-21 years of age, but in most communities, activities involve 12- to 17-year-olds.

In the second year of each project, young people become involved in citizenship activities such as fundraising or community clean-ups, as a way of giving something back to the community.

Lighthouses is an initiative of Neighbourhoods Alive!, a long-term, community-based, social and economic development strategy that includes a focus on community safety and crime prevention.

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E-mail: rkennett@gov.mb.ca

NEIGHBOURHOOD RENEWAL FUND

Issue: Youth at risk

Description: Location: Brandon, Thompson, and Winnipeg, Manitoba

Sponsoring organization: Neighbourhoods Alive!

Since 2000, the Neighbourhood Renewal Fund has supported more than 100 urban revitalization projects in communities across the province, including the inner city of Brandon, declining areas of Thompson and several inner city neighbourhoods in Winnipeg.

The fund supports the development of, and works closely with, neighbourhood renewal corps, which are local non-profit community-based organizations established to pursue local revitalization priorities. Community safety is a high priority for all of these organizations.

Many participating communities have high numbers of young people who are not in school and who may be street-involved or participate in gang-related activities. In response, these communities have developed projects to provide education, training and recreation for these young people.

- Youth Builders is a youth training initiative that is under way in two areas of Winnipeg.
- The Graffiti Art program offers young people opportunities to do photography, graphic design and painting. Through this program, youth have helped paint murals on inner city businesses in downtown Winnipeg, been involved in a photography project (Inner City Images) and created graphic designs for Levy's, a Winnipeg-based company that manufactures guitar straps.
- The Ma Mawi Chi Itata Centre in Winnipeg offers a Youth Cultural Learning program to teach traditional Aboriginal culture to young people who have been involved in the correctional system.

The Neighbourhood Renewal Fund is part of Manitoba's Neighbourhoods Alive!, a long-term, community-based, social and economic development strategy that includes a focus on community safety and crime prevention.

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Manitoba Intergovernmental Affairs
Tel: (204) 945-3379
Fax: (204) 945-5059

YOUTH JUSTICE NEEDS ASSESSMENT

Issue: Youth at risk

Description: Location: Thompson, Manitoba

Sponsoring organization: Ma-Mow-We-Tak Friendship Centre Inc.

Established in 1976, Ma-Mow-We-Tak Friendship Centre is a non-profit, charitable organization that offers support to Aboriginal people who move to the city of Thompson from reserves or rural communities.

The centre provides social, recreational, cultural and educational programming for all ages, with an emphasis on delivering programs for youth.

Prior to the Youth Justice Needs Assessment project, there was no existing research on the justice-related needs of Aboriginal youth in Thompson.

In 2000, in order to address the needs of young people with respect to the justice system, the centre undertook an extensive needs assessment to identify existing community assets, resources and capacity to develop a crime prevention/intervention program for young people in the city.

The needs assessment included surveys of young people, business owners, elders and service providers. Young people were asked questions about extra-curricular activities, substance use, self-esteem, criminal behaviours, awareness of the youth justice system and their needs. Business owners were asked how they were affected by crime and how they address youth crime. Elders were questioned about traditional methods of addressing youth crime and how to deal with current problems.

The needs assessment included outreach to enlist the interest, support and input of community organizations and groups – the researcher participated in community committees and attended community events to connect with young people and other community members and gain their trust.

The project resulted in the creation of a traditional justice circle for youth. Through the circle, two to six community members (elders, youth and other interested community members) provide, not a place of judgment, but rather a means of building relationships and finding solutions.

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Website: www.mamowwetak.mb.ca

Crime Prevention in Ontario: An Overview

Ontario addresses many dimensions of crime prevention and victimization. Through its crime prevention strategy, *Partners Against Crime*, which has been in place since 1997, the government supports both situational and crime prevention through social development initiatives.

The provincial strategy emphasizes partnerships and seeks to:

- facilitate the sharing of information, resources and best practices
- encourage the development of alternative and innovative funding sources.

The Ontario Solicitor General and Minister of Correctional Services and the Attorney General of Ontario coordinate provincial crime prevention activities and encourage the involvement of other provincial ministries in the development of crime prevention activities. Examples of other initiatives that contribute to crime prevention include provincial support for the Children's Aid Society and funding for healthy start programming.

The province is also working with the Department of Justice Canada to implement the National Crime Prevention Strategy and coordinate support for crime prevention initiatives in the province. In addition to the federal government's priorities (described earlier in this report), Ontario's specific priorities under the National Strategy are:

- youth-at-risk
- seniors safety and elder abuse prevention
- child abuse
- domestic violence.

The police are major stakeholders in crime prevention in Ontario. They play an active role in both situational and crime prevention through social development initiatives in communities across the province. The province is currently developing a strategic plan that will assist police services to develop community policing and crime prevention initiatives based on quality data.

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Ontario

KIDS FIRST

Issue: Children at risk

Description: Location: Windsor, Ontario

Sponsoring organization: John Howard Society of Windsor-Essex County

Kids First is an intensive intervention program for children 9-11 years of age who have committed offences that would result in criminal charges if they were older. Kids First provides a structured opportunity for children to participate in recreational activities, acquire new skills and develop pro-social attitudes. The program seeks to empower children and encourages them to trust their abilities and develop their social strengths.

Police and school officials contact the parents of at-risk children and refer them to the program. Kids First staff assesses each child's risks, needs and protective factors. Everyone involved with the child – parents, teachers, child welfare workers and others – helps identify the child's individual skills and strengths and their linkages with the community.

During the intensive phase, children are picked up in the program van and driven to the attendance centre (located in a local school) for the evening. The number of evenings they spend at the centre gradually increases until they are attending four evenings a week (later reducing this again). A maximum of nine children participate in this 10-week program at any one time.

Each evening, recreational activities are followed by a structured session focusing on a specific skill. Sessions address goal setting, consequential thinking, social perspective taking, problem solving, impulse control, control over delinquent/criminal behaviour, interpersonal skills, communication skills and anger management. Children participate in cooperative games, cooking and community outings. They have homework time and access to remedial help. After they help prepare and serve a snack, the children are driven home by 9:00 p.m.

Kids First encourages children to participate in other community activities, such as Scouts, Brownies or soccer, during and after their involvement in the attendance centre. Kids First and its partners may subsidize a child's involvement in community activities – sometimes for several years after they graduate from the program.

Kids First is a three-year project that is being evaluated by the National Crime Prevention Centre. Program materials are being produced.

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PROJECT EARLY INTERVENTION

Issue: Children at risk

Description: Location: Ottawa, Ontario

Sponsoring organization: Boys and Girls Club of Ottawa

Building on the success of the internationally acclaimed Ottawa Police Youth Centre (now amalgamated with the Boys and Girls Club of Ottawa), Project Early Intervention (PEI) focuses on children aged 6-12 years in the Banff/Ledbury/Heatherington area of Ottawa.

To reach out to the community, PEI offers sports and recreation programs for children 6-18 years of age – including sports leagues, an organized gym program, a games room, arts and crafts activities, movie nights, special events and field trips. Older youth participate as volunteers, mentors and outreach workers. These activities help build relationships with children, youth, parents, caregivers and community leaders.

The life-skills program is at the core of PEI. Staff identifies those children aged 6-12 who are most at-risk and who may benefit from the life-skills program. Police officers, social workers and youth agencies also refer children to the life-skills program.

Developed with the Crossroads Children's Centre, the life-skills program includes three modules – Problem Solving, Social Skills and Anger Management – each lasting five weeks. A maximum of 10 children are enrolled in the program at a time and attend two 90-minute sessions per week. Through role playing and other activities, the children practise coping with daily problems, handling stressful situations and improving their relationships. Children 5-8 years old attend "Just for Kids," while 9-12 year olds participate in "Skills and Thrills." Each session ends with a recreational activity.

PEI hosts weekday homework clubs for 5- to-9-year- olds and 10- to-16-year-olds. Those who participate collect points for attending, completing their homework, staying organized and taking tests; points can be used to earn rewards such as field trips.

PEI staff provides group and one-to-one counselling for children, as well as open forum discussions on issues of concern. Parents with children enrolled in the life-skills program may attend a weekly support group.

PEI is a three-year pilot program that is being evaluated by the National Crime Prevention Centre. An operations manual has been produced.

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TAPP-C: THE ARSON PREVENTION PROGRAM FOR CHILDREN

Issue: Children and youth at risk

Description: Location: Toronto, Ontario

Sponsoring organization: Centre for Addiction and Mental Health (CAMH)

Children and adolescents who play with or set fires are engaging in behaviour that is a 'red flag' for mental health problems. Fire play is also highly dangerous – many children who are killed or injured by fire have started the fire themselves.

Since 1991, when the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health's TAPP-C program first opened, CAMH has provided clinical services to hundreds of children and adolescents and their families. The program has provided training and consultation for more than 500 mental health professionals – representing more than 100 mental health agencies – in communities across Ontario. Approximately 50 Ontario communities now operate their own TAPP-C programs. For example, Kinark Child and Family Services – the largest children's mental health centre in Ontario – has implemented its own TAPP-C program.

The core of the TAPP-C program is a standardized clinical assessment and intervention protocol. Service providers in the community, such as child welfare services, children's mental health agencies, family doctors, pediatricians, child psychiatrists, psychologists or the courts, refer children and adolescents who are involved with fire to TAPP-C. Immediately after intake, a local fire services professional conducts a home safety check to ensure the home has smoke alarms and the family has established a fire escape plan.

Children and their parents then participate in several sessions with TAPP-C-trained clinicians who work with them to gather information, assess the risk of further fire involvement and develop strategies to reduce the risk. Families also participate in several family-focused fire safety education sessions at their local fire hall. The TAPP-C intervention continues until the child's fire involvement stops. Parents may re-contact the program if the child becomes involved with fire again.

The TAPP-C program has become a leading resource for treatment, consultation, education, training, program implementation and research related to fire setting behaviour by children and adolescents.

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TORONTO CENTRALIZED SERVICES PROTOCOL FOR CHILDREN UNDER 12 IN CONFLICT WITH THE LAW

Issue: High-risk antisocial children

Description: Location: Toronto, Ontario

Sponsoring organization: Earlscourt Child and Family Centre, in conjunction with the Toronto Police Service

In 1999, Earlscourt Child and Family Centre and the Toronto Police Service along with 13 other community stakeholders implemented Canada's first police protocol for children under 12 years of age in conflict with the law: The Toronto Centralized Services Protocol for Children Under 12 in Conflict with the Law. The protocol establishes a coordinated procedure among community stakeholders (i.e., police services, fire services, children's mental health services, child welfare agencies and schools) who are prepared to ensure that children under 12 years of age coming in contact with police for antisocial activities that, but for their age, would have led to criminal charges, are connected with appropriate services in their own community in a timely manner. Police officers and/or other community agents with parental permission can refer a child through a Central Intake Line operated by Earlscourt. The goal of the protocol is to prevent these children from having future police contact by facilitating quick and efficient access to a wide range of services in their own community. Earlscourt's role is to conduct an assessment and link families and children to the appropriate service.

Since the implementation of the protocol, almost 75 percent of the police services in Ontario (and 80 percent across Canada) have indicated that they would find such a tool useful. Consequently, the Ministry of Public Safety and Security has contracted with Earlscourt to work with four Ontario communities (Thunder Bay, Chatham-Kent, Kawartha Lakes Region and Barrie) to develop Protocol Demonstration Sites. Hamilton and Halton Region have implemented similar protocols. The Province of Manitoba is exploring the feasibility of implementing a province-wide protocol.

The Earlscourt Child and Family Centre's mission is to keep kids in school and out of trouble. Known for its Under 12 Outreach Project, a long-standing, empirically based program for boys in conflict with the law, and the Earlscourt Girls Connection, a gender-specific program for girls with disruptive behaviour problems, Earlscourt recently established the Centre for Children Committing Offences to focus on research, training and dissemination activities aimed at preventing juvenile delinquency.

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Crime Prevention in Québec: An Overview

In Québec, the Ministry of Public Security recognizes the need for a comprehensive, integrated crime prevention strategy – all aimed at improving and extending preventive work that completes the more reactive traditional work of police forces. After exhaustive consultations, the Ministry published its *Departmental Crime Prevention Policy: Making our Communities Safer for Everyone* during Crime Prevention Week in November 2001.

Emphasizing proactive, non-punitive measures, the priorities in the government strategy are to:

- act on the contemporary circumstances or factors that predispose communities to crime (situational prevention and prevention through social development)
- encourage collaboration and cooperation between community partners and the police
- foster the development of teaching and research
- ensure concerted work at the government level.

The Ministry recognizes that it has to foster public awareness and citizen involvement in preventive actions. The key partners in crime prevention include:

- municipalities and numerous promising community organizations and initiatives that receive funding
- police forces, with the support of the ministry's policy, *Towards a more community-based police* (2000), which puts the emphasis on prevention in police work and concerns
- the private sector, including teaching and research
- the Ministry of Public Security
- other Québec government ministries and agencies
- the federal government, through its National Crime Prevention Strategy, and under the auspices of the National Crime Prevention Centre (NCPC).

Stakeholders' commitment to this partnership in ways that respect each one's contribution is an essential condition for the success of the departmental crime prevention strategy.

For more detailed information, please contact:

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Québec

DANIEL JOHNSTON NEIGHBOURHOOD RESIDENTS' COMMITTEE

Issue: Safer Communities

Description: Location: Hull, Québec

Sponsoring organization: *Comité des résidants du secteur Daniel-Johnson*

The *Comité des résidants du secteur Daniel-Johnson* is a citizens' group working to improve residents' quality of life, which includes fighting poverty. It also works to build active citizenship and help make young people part of community life in the sector. Improving residents' quality of life and sense of safety is crucial. There seems to be a long history of excellent cooperation between the residents' committee and the Hull police department.

Although the project started off initially as an effort to integrate youths prone to the pressures of the gang subculture in the Daniel-Johnson sector of Hull, the arrival of a Masters degree student, having done an extensive study on the area's crime problems, caused the project to take on a new mandate. The aim became to mobilize the entire community to address the problems highlighted in the student's report. After a site visit, it was deemed that the project should receive funding a second year to allow the actions put in place in phase one, be extended into other communities. The following description is an outline of what will be carried out in year two. The local police forces have also shown an interest in the project.

The project is aimed at preventing victimization and reducing the crime rate by drawing on the participation of residents and community and municipal partners. To achieve this, the project seeks to raise residents' awareness of issues of safety and vulnerability, provide support to victims of criminal acts, set up youth clubs and foster a sense of trust and solidarity among citizens of all ages.

The current project is the second phase of the "Towards a Safer Neighbourhood" project in the Daniel-Johnson neighbourhood. In conjunction with the residents' committee, the project will hire a development officer to extend the approach tested in last year's pilot project to five areas of Hull. With the development officer's assistance, the residents' committee will set up a sub-committee to identify problems that cause disturbances of the peace in neighbourhoods and come up with solutions for their respective sector. The project also hopes to establish closer ties with the police force by locating the development officer's office in a community police station. Finally, an action plan consistent with the objectives of the police force will be submitted to neighbourhood associations for approval.

This initiative involved the following partners: *Centre d'aide aux victimes d'actes criminels, Service de police de la ville de Hull, Centre d'intervention et de prévention en toxicomanie, CLSC de Hull, École Philomène Wright, Comité des résidants de Daniel-Johnson.*

An evaluation of phase one is available.

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Comité des résidants du Secteur Daniel-Johnson

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YOUNG EXPLORERS

Issue: Youth at risk (10-12 years old)

Description: Location: Québec, Québec

Sponsoring organization: *MotivAction Jeunesse*

Jeunes Explorateurs (Young Explorers) is designed as a project that focuses on discovery, sports, outdoor activities and tolerance in its work with youth at risk between the ages of 10 and 12 attending two schools in Québec City. A series of activities are planned by and for the young people under the supervision of local youth workers. Plans include creating an after-school outdoors club and organizing outdoors activities for families once a month. Guest speakers will give educational workshops on crime, the Young Offenders Act and life in reception centres. Some 50 young people will participate in a three-day bicycle camping expedition at the end of the school year.

The project is aimed mainly at preventing violence and idleness and improving participants' relations with their families. The primary goal is get participants to explore new possibilities, develop their relations with those around them, broaden their horizons and take pride in their success and accomplishments. The project hopes to prove to young people that it's possible to have fun while learning.

MotivAction Jeunesse's mission consists in taking at-risk youth out of their living environment and helping them to experience exciting adventures along the road to success as a way of preventing addiction and juvenile delinquency. The organization specializes in the promotion of sports and outdoor activities as development tools for young people. It also offers support, accompaniment, education and motivation for the young people it encounters in downtown Québec City and local schools.

A project for the 14-20 age group using much the same objectives and intervention strategies was also funded by the National Strategy. Called *Sur la route de l'espoir* (On the road to hope), the project garnered extensive media coverage in the Québec City area and contributed significantly to reducing youth-related problems in the Carré d'Youville area of Québec City.

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WOMEN'S SAFETY IN THE HOCHELAGA-MAISONNEUVE DISTRICT IS EVERYONE'S BUSINESS

Issue: Personal security issues concerning women

Description: Location: Montréal, Québec

Sponsoring organization: *Trêve pour Elles*

Trêve pour Elles is a non-profit organization incorporated in 1986. Its mandate is to help women overcome the consequences of sexual assault and to put an end to sexual assaults in the community.

The project seeks to make women in the Hochelaga-Maisonneuve district feel safer and to reduce the risk of sexual assault. The project has pursued these objectives by establishing a local committee composed of local partners and caseworkers, distributing a survey identifying sites to be explored, doing safety audits to analyze the local environment and organizing to change it.

The project's main objectives were to mobilize the community and partners concerned about women's safety, to have a direct impact on environmental factors likely to victimize women, to equip women to ensure their own safety, and to see to the implementation of recommended preventive actions by municipal bodies.

The project received a second phase of funding to implement preventive actions and evaluate the activities and process. The final report on the project is available from the organization.

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ALTERNATIVE SUSPENSION

Issue: Youth at risk

Description: Location: Montréal, Québec

Sponsoring organization: *YMCA de Montréal*

This project provides a program of activities for high school students in a Montréal neighbourhood who are temporarily suspended from school. The activities include workshops on problem resolution and active listening, group discussions on topics such as drug addiction and effective communication, visits to businesses and help with homework. The project has been undertaken in cooperation with various community partners: local schools, the police force and private businesses. In its first phase, it was tested in a small number of schools grouped around a community centre. The project is now in its second phase and has been extended to other YMCAs on the Island of Montréal.

The project's main objective is to reduce the number of repeat suspensions by offering students the opportunity to make the time while they are suspended a positive experience that fosters personal development and empowerment, by putting them in an environment that encourages a sense of personal worth, the acquisition of social skills and greater respect for oneself and others.

This non-profit organization is based on a partnership between volunteers and professionals. Through its activities, programs and services, the Montréal YMCA seeks to reflect community needs and aspirations and to work with individuals and local communities in striving for social justice and to take charge of their lives. Its youth department encourages young people to participate actively in identifying their needs and establishing programs aimed at encouraging their development and empowerment.

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Crime Prevention in New Brunswick: An Overview

In New Brunswick, the provincial government's crime prevention strategy focuses on supporting communities to:

- increase public safety
- reduce fear of crime and victimization.

The province also works closely with the federal government to ensure consistency between the provincial crime prevention strategy and the National Crime Prevention Strategy, and to coordinate support for community-based crime prevention initiatives across the province. The emphasis is on promoting and supporting the participation of all levels of government, as well as citizens, police, community organizations, the private sector and the voluntary sector.

Police services play an important role in crime prevention. Recently, New Brunswick incorporated community policing – including crime prevention – into its provincial policing standard (effective April 1, 2002). The Protect Your Business – Think Prevention program, in which police work closely with business owners, has been implemented across the province.

The New Brunswick Department of Public Safety actively participates in the long-standing Atlantic Coordinating Committee on Crime Prevention and served as chair from June 2000 to June 2002. Each November, New Brunswick sponsors its Community Safety and Crime Prevention Week, which is held in conjunction with crime prevention weeks in the other Atlantic provinces.

Many other federal and provincial initiatives in New Brunswick are linked to crime prevention. These include government-wide collaboration at the provincial level, in areas such as wellness and education, as well as the establishment of a Ministerial Working Group to develop a strategy on violence against women. Other initiatives include the Early Childhood Development Agenda, the Community Capacity Building Initiative for Children and Families and the Canadian Rural Partnership.

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New Brunswick

CONFLICT RESOLUTION FOR FOUR AND FIVE YEAR OLDS (READY FOR SCHOOL)

Issue: Children at risk

Description: Location: Hampton, New Brunswick

Sponsoring organization: Hampton Alliance For Lifelong Learning

Hampton is a rural town in New Brunswick that serves a population of approximately 5,500. Many children from outlying areas attend school in Hampton. In 1998, the local Parent-School Support Committee expressed concern that a significant number of children (as many as one in four, according to the school's principal) entering kindergarten were not ready to succeed in school. Since that time, the Hampton Alliance For Lifelong Learning has grown to include approximately 50 interested community representatives. The organization piloted the Conflict Resolution for Four and Five Year Olds program in 1999 (now called Ready for School).

Research shows that the early years are a critical period for children's brain development and for their subsequent learning, behaviour and health. Positive experiences early in children's lives can improve children's behaviour and learning, and therefore reduce the possibility of crime and victimization.

The Conflict Resolution for Four and Five Year Olds pilot program was developed to provide parents with the resources to teach their young children how to manage conflict more effectively. Thirty-five parents (approximately 45 percent of all those with children registered for Dr. A.T. Leatherbarrow Primary school in fall 1999) participated in four conflict resolution workshops. The program is now in its fourth year and has expanded to include all parents of 4- and 5-year-olds attending three schools in Hampton and the surrounding areas. The expanded curriculum includes a holistic focus on readying children – cognitively, socially, emotionally, physically and spiritually – to enter school.

The Hampton Alliance For Lifelong Learning offers other volunteer-based programs and services for parents of children from birth to 8 years of age, including Learning Begins, Early Learning Canada, Parent Resource Library, Self-Esteem Building and Making Connections. The organization and its partners are also involved in mapping community assets and mobilizing other groups in the region to support parents of children in the early years.

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MONCTON HEADSTART

Issue: Children and families at risk

Description: Location: Southeast region of New Brunswick (Greater Moncton, Dieppe, Riverview)

Sponsoring organization: Moncton Headstart

Moncton Headstart has been delivering its comprehensive program for environmentally at-risk parents and their preschool children (from birth to age 5) for almost three decades. Most children in the program have significant behaviour problems or language delays. Others have experienced abuse or neglect – often because their parents are dealing with an addiction or have been involved in the criminal justice system.

Moncton Headstart first addresses families' basic needs – food, shelter, clothing and safety. The program combines early intervention, parenting education and other supports to meet parents and children's higher level needs – belonging/trust, love/caring and self.

The early childhood education program fosters children's cognitive, social, physical and emotional development. The High/Scope curriculum encourages children to initiate and carry out their own learning activities, with support from adults. The goal is to prepare children for school by supporting their ability to think, make decisions and solve problems.

Parents spend two days each month working in the early childhood program and participate in weekly group sessions, workshops and an annual retreat, all of which focus on improving parenting skills.

Other components, some open to other community members, include:

- a teaching kitchen where parents learn about nutrition, budgeting and other home management skills
- a socially supported, subsidized housing program, which includes 12 long-term units situated in middle-class neighbourhoods
- an adult literacy and upgrading program
- a recycling program that provides food, clothing and appliances to families in need and provides opportunities for parents to develop job skills.

Moncton Headstart is piloting a program that provides ongoing support for children after they enter school. The organization is a champion for the FAS/FAE issue and serves as a training centre for the High/Scope curriculum in the Atlantic Region.

The National Crime Prevention Centre published an evaluation of Moncton Headstart in 2000.

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Crime Prevention in Nova Scotia: An Overview

Improving public safety and security is a priority for the Government of Nova Scotia.

Within the province, the Nova Scotia Department of Justice is responsible for:

- improving public safety and security
- providing effective dispute resolution mechanisms
- offering a coordinated response to victims of crime
- providing safe and secure custody, control and effective supervision of offenders
- ensuring lawful administration of public affairs.

In 2000-01, provincial measures to improve public safety and security include developing a strategic policing plan, implementing tougher measures to keep drunk drivers off the road and creating a comprehensive and effective crime prevention strategy. Given that police are key players in crime prevention, there is a strong focus on fostering cooperation between police services, community organizations, schools, the public and the corporate sector.

Through the National Crime Prevention Strategy, the provincial government works closely with the Department of Justice Canada to coordinate support for community-based crime prevention initiatives across the province. Under the National Strategy, Nova Scotia has identified the following priorities: programming for children and youth – including early intervention and development of meaningful alternatives for young people ‘at risk’ of committing to a criminal lifestyle – restorative justice and community capacity development.

At the regional level, Nova Scotia participates in the Atlantic Coordinating Committee on Crime Prevention.

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Nova Scotia

BUILDING A SAFE HAVEN

Issue: Youth at risk

Description: Locations: Sydney and Eskasoni, Nova Scotia

Sponsoring organization: Educational Program Innovations Charity–*Insight, Diversity, Empowerment, Advancement (EPIC-IDEA)*

Building a Safe Haven grew out of an existing peer literacy program, in which student tutors worked with peers who were at risk of dropping out of school. Many of the young people receiving tutoring had been involved in the justice system, so the focus of the program was expanded to use creative arts as a means of addressing the social issues facing these youth.

Building a Safe Haven used theatre games and improvisation to empower young people to speak about their lives, their communities and the issues that affected them. Through drama, young people voiced their feelings about and experiences with drugs, alcohol abuse, vandalism, date rape and other forms of violence.

During 1999-2000, Building a Safe Haven operated in four centres: three within Sydney (Membertou Reserve, Whitney Pier and Ashby) and a fourth centre at the Eskasoni Reserve, about 40 minutes outside of Sydney.

Together, young people from each of the four centres also hosted a series of community workshops for service providers. They invited community organizations connected to the justice system, including the Children's Aid Society, police and local justice organizations, to participate. Led by the young people, each workshop provided an opportunity for youth to present their perspective on a specific issue – police perceptions of youth, racism or drug houses in the community – and invite feedback from and dialogue with the participants. The young people enjoyed the opportunity to lead the workshops and the participants welcomed the opportunity to hear from and communicate with the youth.

EPIC-*IDEA* is a registered charity, which focuses on the needs of disadvantaged learners (youth or adult). EPIC-*IDEA* currently operates Youth PEERS (Promoting Esteem & Encouraging Re-entry Support), a program for high-risk young offenders aged 12-18 in Sydney. Based on the Safe Haven approach, the current program uses one-to-one tutoring, theatre, music and visual arts.

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SPRYFIELD PROUD & SPRYFIELD FUTURE

Issue: Youth and children at risk

Description: Location: Halifax, Nova Scotia

Sponsoring organization: Chebucto Boys and Girls Club

Spryfield is located on Chebucto Peninsula, just west of Halifax Harbour, within the Halifax Regional Municipality. Home to 30,000 inhabitants, the population includes a wide range of income levels, including a high proportion of residents who are unemployed. The area comprises a number of distinct and isolated neighbourhoods. There are sections of new housing, older subdivisions, townhouse complexes and low-income apartment units.

Chebucto Boys and Girls Club is located in the midst of a track of low-income apartment units, near a public housing project. The club provides recreation activities and programs for children and youth from low-income families.

In 1999-2000, the club, along with several other organizations in the community, decided to combat stereotypes about Spryfield. They conducted a survey of students in Grades 10 and 11 to find out students' perceptions about safety, crime and their community. Students reported that drugs and alcohol were easy to get, and indicated that most of their classmates had used these substances. They also identified other community problems such as stealing, break-ins, drug dealing and racism. At the same time, more than two-thirds of the students reported they felt safe in the community and were proud of being from Spryfield. They identified many community assets, such as the skating rink and the Boys and Girls Club, among others.

The second phase of Spryfield Proud focused on involving young people in projects to promote community pride. Among other things, youth wrote and performed plays about peer pressure and illegal drug/alcohol use, cleaned up a neighbourhood pond and wrote newspaper articles about Spryfield Proud.

Now Spryfield Future is capturing the views of younger children (12-15 years of age) about safety, crime and their community. Spryfield Future is also bringing together all the agencies and volunteer organizations that work with young people in Spryfield to increase young peoples' access to programs, reduce overlap and promote cooperative, co-sponsored programming for young people.

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Crime Prevention in Prince Edward Island: An Overview

Prince Edward Island has a long-standing commitment to community safety through its *Strategies for Safer Communities in PEI* (adopted in 1995, currently being renewed). Under the renewed Strategy, provincial priorities in community safety and crime prevention will include:

- public education
- community mobilization
- leadership
- training/capacity building
- sustainability.

A number of related provincial strategies – including those on Family Violence Prevention, Child Sexual Abuse, Children & Youth and Impaired Driving – are linked to crime prevention in PEI.

The RCMP and municipal police departments play a key role in community policing and crime prevention in the province. PEI's ongoing review of its justice system is emphasizing the role of justice system personnel in crime prevention and conflict resolution. Crime prevention is also a specific component in PEI's five-year provincial strategy on Healthy Child Development, developed as part of the Children's Health Agenda.

PEI works closely with the Department of Justice Canada to implement the National Crime Prevention Strategy and coordinate support for crime prevention initiatives across the province. PEI's crime prevention activities must complement efforts in the areas of housing, community development, 'special' client/offender groups, youth employment, community policing, recreation and the training/development of professionals, community leaders, other practitioners and interest groups. PEI recognizes the importance of the relationship between social development and criminal behaviour, and acknowledges that factors such as income, social support networks, literacy and education, employment, safe physical environments, coping skills, childhood development, health and education services must be addressed, particularly in long-term crime prevention initiatives.

PEI coordinates its crime prevention initiatives with those other provinces in the Atlantic Region through the Atlantic Coordinating Committee on Crime Prevention and Community Safety.

For more information, contact:

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Prince Edward Island

BEST START (HEALTHY FAMILIES)

Issue: Children and families at risk

Description: Location: Queens Health Region, Prince Edward Island

Sponsoring organization: C.H.A.N.C.E.S. (Caring, Helping, and Nurturing Children Every Step), Inc.

The Queens Health Region in PEI encompasses the city of Charlottetown and surrounding rural areas. C.H.A.N.C.E.S., Inc. is a non-profit family resource centre that provides programs and services for children (ages 0-6) and their families. Expanding on the work of C.H.A.N.C.E.S., Inc., Best Start PEI is an intensive home visiting program based on the US Healthy Families model. The program is designed to maximize the development of young at-risk children and their families and increase the children's opportunities for success.

Best Start PEI combines early screening, assessment and intervention. It promotes positive parenting and healthy child development and thereby prevents child abuse and other poor childhood outcomes.

PEI's public health nurses visit every newborn in the province. They screen all infants and parents to identify those who face additional challenges. Families identified through screening are asked to undergo a more intensive assessment to determine if they could benefit from ongoing, supportive home visits from a Best Start worker.

Using a peer support model, Best Start workers focus on developing strong and trusting partnerships with families. They emphasize and build on parents' strengths and encourage positive parent-child interaction. Examples of support may include providing advice on breastfeeding, demonstrating baby massage, encouraging parents to read to their children and helping parents set up play activities that stimulate child development. Workers also help parents to establish and monitor personal and family goals, such as enhancing basic literacy skills, increasing physical activity, changing parenting practices or getting involved in career training. Depending on the family's needs, workers also provide information and referrals to other resources in the community.

Best Start PEI is one of three Healthy Families programs in Canada that has been evaluated over a three-year period through the National Crime Prevention Strategy.

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EVANGELINE COMMUNITY CONSULTATIVE GROUP PROJECT

Issue: Community engagement in crime prevention

Description: Location: Evangeline, Prince Edward Island

Sponsoring organization: Evangeline Community Consultative Group

The Evangeline Region of Prince Edward Island consists of 14 Acadian villages, two of which are incorporated (Abram-Village and Wellington). The approximately 2,500 residents of the area are francophone, with a minority of anglophone residents.

In the Evangeline Region, the Evangeline Community Consultative Group (ECCG), which includes representatives from many different community services, has become a driving force in crime prevention.

The group held three community forums in the spring of 1999 to explore the community's strengths and weaknesses and identify possible solutions. One forum brought together 70 associations from the region. The other two forums involved local high school and junior high school students. The resulting action plan focused on seven priority issues: self-esteem, alcoholism and other addictions, violence in teen dating, sports violence, family and domestic violence, child abuse and television violence.

ECCG has mobilized resources at all levels – community, school and family – to address these issues. ECCG has produced public information materials; organized workshops; and made presentations to seniors, young people, service providers and other community members. Three francophone victim services workers are now available to assist community members. Existing training programs and resource materials on issues such as teen dating violence, bullying, and abuse and harassment in sport have been adapted for use in the community. Three highly successful annual festivals have been held to launch National Family Week. Every activity is offered in both French and in English.

Now the group is using the Virtues Project®: The Language of the Gifts of Character, with its emphasis on changing people's attitudes and language, as a tool to address the root causes of crime. The ECCG's coordinator, a trained Virtues' facilitator, is training local teachers, school administrators, parents, youth groups, victim services workers, health personnel and senior citizens to use the Virtues tool to transform and enhance self-esteem.

In the fall of 2002, the group plans to bring the community together again to evaluate the effects of the 1999 action plan and launch a new or adapted plan for the next three years.

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WOMEN TOGETHER/LEARNING FROM EACH OTHER

Issue: Women's personal safety

Description: Location: Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island

Sponsoring organization: PEI People First

People First is a self-advocacy organization for people with intellectual disabilities. Its goal is to help members speak for themselves, make their own decisions and live more independently in their communities.

Women with intellectual disabilities often experience violence, but it is an issue that is not often discussed. The Women Together/Learning from Each Other project used storytelling and theatre to get people talking about violence and how to deal with it.

A number of women, including members of People First and other women in the community, were invited to come together, in a safe environment, to share their stories about violence. During the storytelling sessions, the women talked about experiences of physical, emotional, verbal and sexual abuse, which had occurred in public places, homes and institutions, at the hands of boyfriends, service providers and strangers.

With the women's permission, these real-life stories became the inspiration for three short fictional plays. Each play was about a woman experiencing one of three different forms of abuse – being verbally and physically abused by a husband, experiencing harassment and threats from an ex-boyfriend in a common area of an institution or having her private space violated by another person while living in a group home.

Members of People First performed these plays in four communities across PEI. Before each performance, audience members discussed abuse, including what it is and where to go for help if it happens. Everyone received a wallet card with phone numbers for the police and other services. After each initial performance, the audience discussed what had happened on stage and what might have made the situation better. Then, while the actors performed the plays a second time, audience members were invited to stop the action at any point and either join in or tell the actors what to do to change the outcome of the story. Outreach workers from the transition house association attended each performance to ensure that suggestions were appropriate and safe.

An eight-and-a-half-minute video describing the project – and including the performances – is available from People First.

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Crime Prevention in Newfoundland and Labrador: An Overview

In Newfoundland and Labrador, crime prevention is community-based and community-led. Crime prevention activities involve many different players – schools, community groups, the police, and others. Newfoundland has played a leading role in following this model of crime prevention.

The National Crime Prevention Strategy is a key source of support for crime prevention activities in Newfoundland and Labrador. Through the Strategy, Newfoundland and Labrador's priorities include:

- investing in children and youth – a coordinated and holistic approach to crime prevention, which will meet the needs of children, youth and their families, is an area of primary focus, as is an emphasis on prevention and early intervention
- improving women's personal security – primarily dealing with the issue of violence in relationships
- providing a culturally sensitive response to the crime prevention needs of Aboriginal communities, consistent with provincial policy
- addressing the needs of other vulnerable populations such as seniors, persons with disabilities and other 'at risk' groups consistent with federal and provincial policy and objectives.

Newfoundland and Labrador ensures that support for crime prevention projects is compatible with the efforts of the many other federal and provincial initiatives that address the root causes of crime and provide services for children, youth, women, Aboriginal people and other vulnerable populations in the province. These include, for example, the National Child Benefit Provincial Reinvestment Program, the Provincial Strategy Against Violence, the Model for Coordination of Services to Children and Youth, the Community Action Program for Children (CAPC), the Provincial Youth Employment Strategy, the Aboriginal Justice Initiative and initiative related to the Classroom Issues Report. Newfoundland and Labrador is also an active participant in the Atlantic Coordinating Committee on Crime Prevention.

The Royal Newfoundland Constabulary (RNC) plays a key role in community policing and crime prevention initiatives throughout Newfoundland and Labrador. In addition to involvement in many community and sporting events, it provides public education on crime prevention topics, sponsors crime prevention activities and participates as partners in community-based crime prevention activities.

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Newfoundland and Labrador

COMMUNITIES IN SCHOOLS TEEN HELP CORPS

Issue: Youth at risk

Description: Location: Stephenville, Newfoundland and Labrador

Sponsoring organization: Communities In Schools (CIS) Newfoundland and Labrador, Inc.

Communities In Schools (CIS) Newfoundland and Labrador, Inc. is a non-profit network that develops and implements school-based initiatives in communities throughout southwestern Newfoundland. Since 1996, CIS coordinators have been bringing community stakeholders together – including businesses, corporations, health and social service agencies, schools, families and neighbourhood groups – to help young people stay in school and realize their potential. Coordinators function as brokers between the school and the wider community, developing programs for families and youth and connecting young people to available services.

In 1999, CIS piloted the Teen Help Corps at Stephenville Middle School. This was the first time the project had been run with younger students (Grades 6 to 8). The province's formerly denominational school systems had recently been integrated and, as a result, the population of Stephenville Middle School included students from each of the previous school systems. Many young people either did not know each other or were former rivals. The Teen Help Corps brought the students together and fostered a sense of ownership and belonging.

Every student in the school was invited to participate in the project. About 30 students became actively involved during the 1999-2000 and 2000-01 school years. They met four times each week to focus on their priorities: recycling, teen health, anti-smoking and ensuring the atmosphere of the school made everyone feel comfortable and accepted.

The activities of the Teen Help Corps included operating a recycling program, volunteering at the school breakfast program, bringing in public health professionals to make presentations on smoking, cleaning up a popular smoking spot, publishing a student newspaper, creating information displays on teen sexuality and STDs, hosting a seniors appreciation day to connect youth with elders, introducing peer mediation training, organizing a one-day leadership conference for the entire school and doing fundraising for local organizations.

Contact: Communities In Schools (CIS), Newfoundland and Labrador, Inc.

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YOUTH BUILDING COMMUNITIES FOR THE MILLENNIUM

Issue: Youth engagement in community crime prevention

Description: Location: Placentia, Marystown and Burin, Newfoundland and Labrador

Sponsoring organization: Canadian Red Cross, Newfoundland & Labrador Region

Placentia, Marystown and Burin are all communities that have suffered high unemployment rates – as well as other related socioeconomic challenges – due to the downturn in the fishing industry. In Placentia, the closure of the nearby US Naval Facility has added to the economic hardships.

To improve the emotional and psychological well-being of young people in these communities, the Canadian Red Cross, in consultation with local partners, hosted Youth Building Communities for the Millennium, a pilot project to provide prevention education opportunities. Interested youth and adults were invited to enroll (at no cost) in their choice of a selection of Red Cross prevention training programs, if they volunteered 10 hours of their time to help a local community group.

By the spring of 2001, more than 600 community members, including young people, students, parents, other adults and seniors, had volunteered thousands of hours of their time to help their communities. They had donated their time to community organizations such as Crime Prevention, the P4 Youth Centre in Dunville, the T.J. MacDonald Achievement House in Burin, the Two Sites Community Centre in Marystown and the local branches of the Red Cross. Among other things, these volunteers collected items for Red Cross personal hygiene kits and children's entertainment kits (used for victims of house fires and other disasters), worked in school breakfast programs, developed and delivered ice safety presentations and displays, made and donated crafts and baked goods, participated in fundraising concerts and walk-a-thons, and created posters and essays promoting the Canadian Red Cross.

After completing 10 hours of service, each volunteer received a 'training passport' that allowed them to enroll in prevention-oriented training courses designed to improve their well-being and that of their families and loved ones. The courses included Emergency First Aid, First Responder, Standard First Aid, Facilitator Training, Water Ice Safety, It's Not Your Fault (violence and abuse prevention for youth), Understanding and Communicating with Teens, Prevention in Motion (professional development for adults and youth workers) and Protect Yourself (safety for seniors).

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Key Websites

Federal

Canada site: <http://www.canada.gc.ca>
Department of Justice Canada: <http://www.canada.justice.gc.ca>
National Crime Prevention Centre: <http://www.prevention.gc.ca>
Access to Justice Network (ACJNet): www.acjnet.org
Solicitor General Canada: <http://www.sgc.gc.ca>

Provincial/Territorial

Nunavut: www.gov.nu.ca
Northwest Territories: www.gov.nt.ca
Yukon: www.gov.yk.ca
British Columbia: www.gov.bc.ca
Alberta: www.gov.ab.ca/just/
Saskatchewan: www.saskjustice.gov.sk.ca
Manitoba: www.gov.mb.ca
Ontario: www.attorneygeneral.jus.gov.on.ca and www.fightcrime.net
Québec: www.msp.gouv.qc.ca
New Brunswick: www.gov.nb.ca
Nova Scotia: www.gov.ns.ca/just/
Prince Edward Island: www.gov.pe.ca/
Newfoundland and Labrador: www.gov.nf.ca

Municipal

Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM): www.fcm.ca

International

International Centre for the Prevention of Crime: www.crime-prevention-intl.org

Australia

Australian Institute of Criminology: <http://www.aic.gov.au>

Great Britain

British Home Office: <http://www.crimereduction.org.uk/>

United States

U.S. Department of Justice: National Institute of Justice: www.ncjrs.org

National Crime Prevention Council (NCPC): www.ncpc.org

Jerry Lee Center of Criminology: www.preventingcrime.org

University of Colorado, Center for the Study and Prevention of Violence (CSPV):
www.colorado.edu/cspr/blueprints/

Fight Crime Invest in Kids: www.fightcrime.org